IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims which are pending in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of providing access to data across one or more environments in a data system, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying and classifying data in the data system as non-critical data or critical data; and

classifying critical data as authoritative data in situations where the data requires immediate access in order to provide a seamless interface to a user, the authoritative data being the most recent value of a data entry;

storing classified data in a particular data storage module so as to be accessible by one or more devices in the data system: and

adjusting the classification of the data in accordance with at least one of a change in a current environment of the data storage module and a move of the data from the data storage module to another environment;

wherein at least one of the data storage module in which the classified data is stored and the operation of the data system when handling the classified data is dependent on the classification of the data.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of storing the authoritative data in an authoritative data storage module and subsequently displaying the authoritative data to the user.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 further comprising the steps of storing the classification of the data in a file means and thereafter storing the data in a designated location in accordance with the classification of the data.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A method of writing data to a data storage module in an N-tier architecture, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

classifying a newly created data entity as critical data or non-critical data;

obtaining a current value of the data entity;

determining the location within the N -tier architecture at which the current value is to be stored ~~in the data storage module~~ on the basis of the classifying step; and

storing the current value in a data storage module at the determined location; and

adjusting the classification of the data in accordance with at least one of a change in a current environment of the data storage module and a move of the data from the data storage module to another data storage module within the N-tier architecture.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 further comprising the step of storing the current value of the data entity in volatile storage of the data storage module where the current value of the data entity is not critical data.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 5 further comprising the step of storing the current value of the data entity in an authoritative source of the data storage module where the current value of the data entity is authoritative data.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 5 further comprising the step of storing the current value of the data entity in non-volatile storage of the data

storage module where the current value of the data entity is not authoritative data.

9-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) Computer program means for directing a processing means to execute a procedure to enable access to data across one or more environments in a data system according to ~~any of~~ the method ~~steps of~~ claim 1.

19. (Currently amended) Computer program means for directing a processing means to execute a procedure to write data to a data storage module according to ~~any of~~ the method ~~steps~~ of claim 5.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method of writing data to a data storage module in a N-tier architecture, the method comprising:

classifying a newly created data entity as critical data;

identifying the location in the N-tier architecture where a said newly created data entity that has been classified as critical is to be stored;

classifying critical data as authoritative data in situations where the data requires immediate access in order to provide a seamless interface to a user, the authoritative data being the most recent value of a data entry, wherein the classification of critical data as authoritative data is dependent on the identified location:

obtaining a current value of the data entity; and

storing the current value in the identified location;

wherein at least one of the particular data storage module at the identified location in which the critical data is stored and the operation of the data system when handling critical data is dependent on whether that data is classified as authoritative data.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising determining when critical data is communicated from one location to another location in the N-tier architecture and in response reclassifying the data

23. (New) A method of managing data storage within a data system having an N- tier architecture, the method comprising maintaining in memory a definition of a plurality of classifications of data, in a classification process performed in the data system comparing data in the data system to said definition to determine the classification of the data, and storing data in a particular tier within the data system dependent on the determined classification.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, comprising classifying the data upon initialization of the N-tier application.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, comprising classifying the data immediately preceding storage of the data.

26. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the plurality of classifications include critical data, which is data vital to the operation of the N-tier application, and noncritical data.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the plurality of classifications include authoritative data, which is critical data requiring a short access time.

28. (New) A method of storing data in a data system comprising storing information relating to a plurality of types of data in the data system, including at least information on the manner of creation of the data, frequency of creation of the data, identity of the component that creates the data and accessibility requirements for the data, accessing the stored information in an automatic data classification process run in the data system, and storing data classified in the automatic data classification process in a particular data storage module in the data system dependent on the classification of the data.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the data system is a gaming system comprising an N-tier architecture and wherein the process of storing data

classified in the automatic classification process comprises storing different classes of data in different data storage modules located in different tiers in the N-tier architecture.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the classifications include a classification of data that is vital to the continued operation of the gaming system and which requires relatively quick access for display on a display in the gaming system and wherein the method comprises storing data within this classification before displaying images representing the data on the display.